

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-15. Cancelled.

16. (Original) A carbon material for use in a lead-acid battery, which is a carbon powder containing or loading thereon at least one simple substance selected from the group consisting of Hf, Nb, Ta, W, Ag, Zn, Ni, Co, Mo, Cu, V, Mn, Ba, K, Cs, Rb, Sr and Na, or at least one oxide, sulfate, hydroxide or carbide thereof.

17. (Original) A carbon material for use in a lead-acid battery, which is a carbon powder containing a simple substance and/or a compound, both having a catalysis for desulfurization or SO_x oxidation.

18. (Original) A carbon material for use in a lead-acid battery, which is an active carbon and/or carbon black containing at least one simple substance selected from the group consisting of Cu, Ni, Zn, Mn, Al, Si, K and Mg, or at least one compound thereof.